



Report of the 9th Special Session of the IPHC (SS09)

Meeting held electronically, 8 December 2020

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Paul Ryall	Chris Oliver
Neil Davis	Robert Alverson
Peter DeGreef	Richard Yamada

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BIBLIOGRAPHIC ENTRY

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ACRONYMS

AM	Annual Meeting
FISS	Fishery-Independent Setline Survey
ID	Intersessional Decision
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
SS	Special Session

DEFINITIONS

A set of working definitions are provided in the IPHC Glossary of Terms and abbreviations: <https://www.iphc.int/the-commission/glossary-of-terms-and-abbreviations>

HOW TO INTERPRET TERMINOLOGY CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT

This report has been written using the following terms and associated definitions so as to remove ambiguity surrounding how particular paragraphs should be interpreted.

- Level 1: RECOMMENDED; RECOMMENDATION; ADOPTED** (formal); **REQUESTED; ENDORSED** (informal): A conclusion for an action to be undertaken, by a Contracting Party, a subsidiary (advisory) body of the Commission and/or the IPHC Secretariat.
- Level 2: AGREED:** Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be an agreed course of action covered by its mandate, which has not already been dealt with under Level 1 above; a general point of agreement among delegations/participants of a meeting which does not need to be elevated in the Commission's reporting structure.
- Level 3: NOTED/NOTING; CONSIDERED; URGED; ACKNOWLEDGED:** General terms to be used for consistency. Any point of discussion from a meeting which the Commission considers to be important enough to record in a meeting report for future reference. Any other term may be used to highlight to the reader of an IPHC report, the importance of the relevant paragraph. Other terms may be used but will be considered for explanatory/informational purposes only and shall have no higher rating within the reporting terminology hierarchy than Level 3.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 9th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS09) was held electronically, on 8 December 2020. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), and Vice-Chairperson Mr Chris Oliver (USA), who outlined the need for a special session.

The following is the intersessional decision from the SS09, which is also provided at [Appendix IV](#).

IPHC-2020-ID016 ([para. 8](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat proceed with an '*optimised*' version of the '*minimum 2021 FISS design*', involving adding an additional ~398 stations within the areas covered by the '*minimum 2021 FISS design*' and where feasible, adding additional skates on each station ([Fig. 2](#)). The Commission reserved the right to make ad-hoc adjustments to the 2021 FISS at the 97th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM097), based on updated information to be provided by the IPHC Secretariat on IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B and 2A.

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The 9th Special Session of the International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) (SS09) was held electronically, on 8 December 2020. The meeting was opened by the Chairperson Mr Paul Ryall (Canada), and Vice-Chairperson Mr Chris Oliver (USA), who outlined the need for a special session.

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION

2. The Commission **ADOPTED** the Agenda as provided at [Appendix I](#). The documents provided to the SS09 are listed in [Appendix II](#). The list of participants is provided at [Appendix III](#).

3 IPHC FISHERY-INDEPENDENT SETLINE SURVEY (FISS)

3.1 For Information: Recap of the rationalisation of the FISS following the 2014-19 expansion series

3. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-SS09-03 which provided background on, and reviews the methods for the IPHC's Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) rationalisation following the 2014-19 expansion series, and proposes FISS designs for 2021-23.

3.2 For Information: Implications of a reduced FISS in 2021

4. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-SS09-04 that provided the Commission with the likely implications of a 2021 FISS design reduced from the minimum design proposed by the IPHC Secretariat and endorsed by the Scientific Review Board (SRB) in 2020.

3.3 For Decision: IPHC 2021 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS)

5. The Commission **NOTED** paper IPHC-2020-SS09-05 that prescribed and sought Commission approval of key decisions that would enable the IPHC Secretariat to operationalise the 2021 FISS.
6. The Commission **NOTED** the 'minimum 2021 FISS design' as recommended by the Scientific Review Board (SRB) ([Fig. 1](#)).

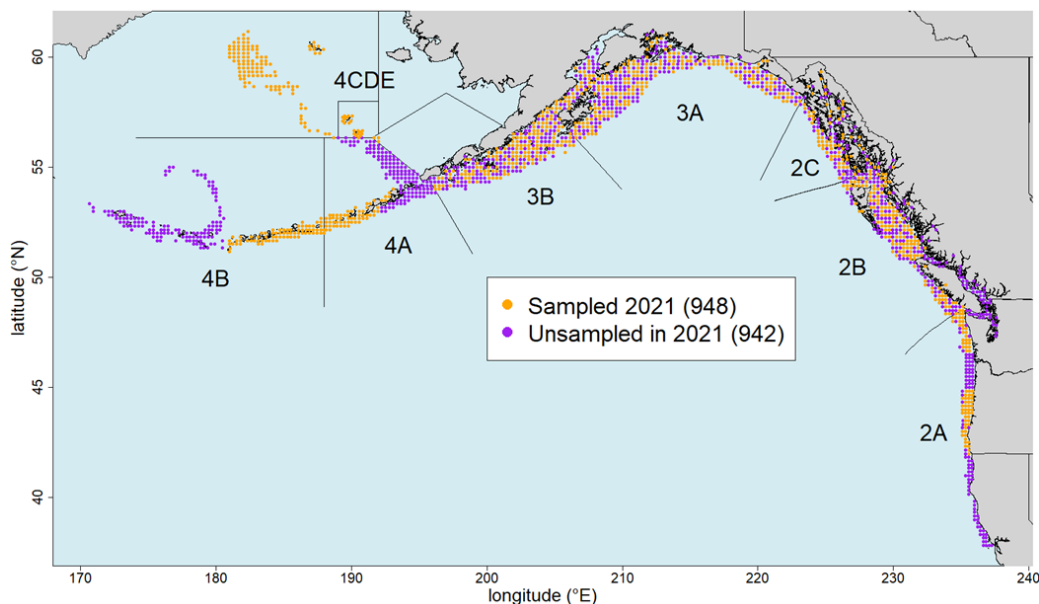


Figure 1. Proposed minimum FISS design in 2021 (orange circles) based on randomized sampling in 2B-3B, and a subarea design elsewhere. Purple circles are optional for meeting data quality criteria.

7. The Commission **REITERATED** its position that the IPHC Secretariat should seek long-term revenue neutrality for the FISS.
8. The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat proceed with an ‘*optimised*’ version of the ‘*minimum 2021 FISS design*’, involving adding an additional ~398 stations within the areas covered by the ‘*minimum 2021 FISS design*’ and where feasible, adding additional skates on each station ([Fig. 2](#)). The Commission reserved the right to make ad-hoc adjustments to the 2021 FISS at the 97th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM097), based on updated information to be provided by the IPHC Secretariat on IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B and 2A.

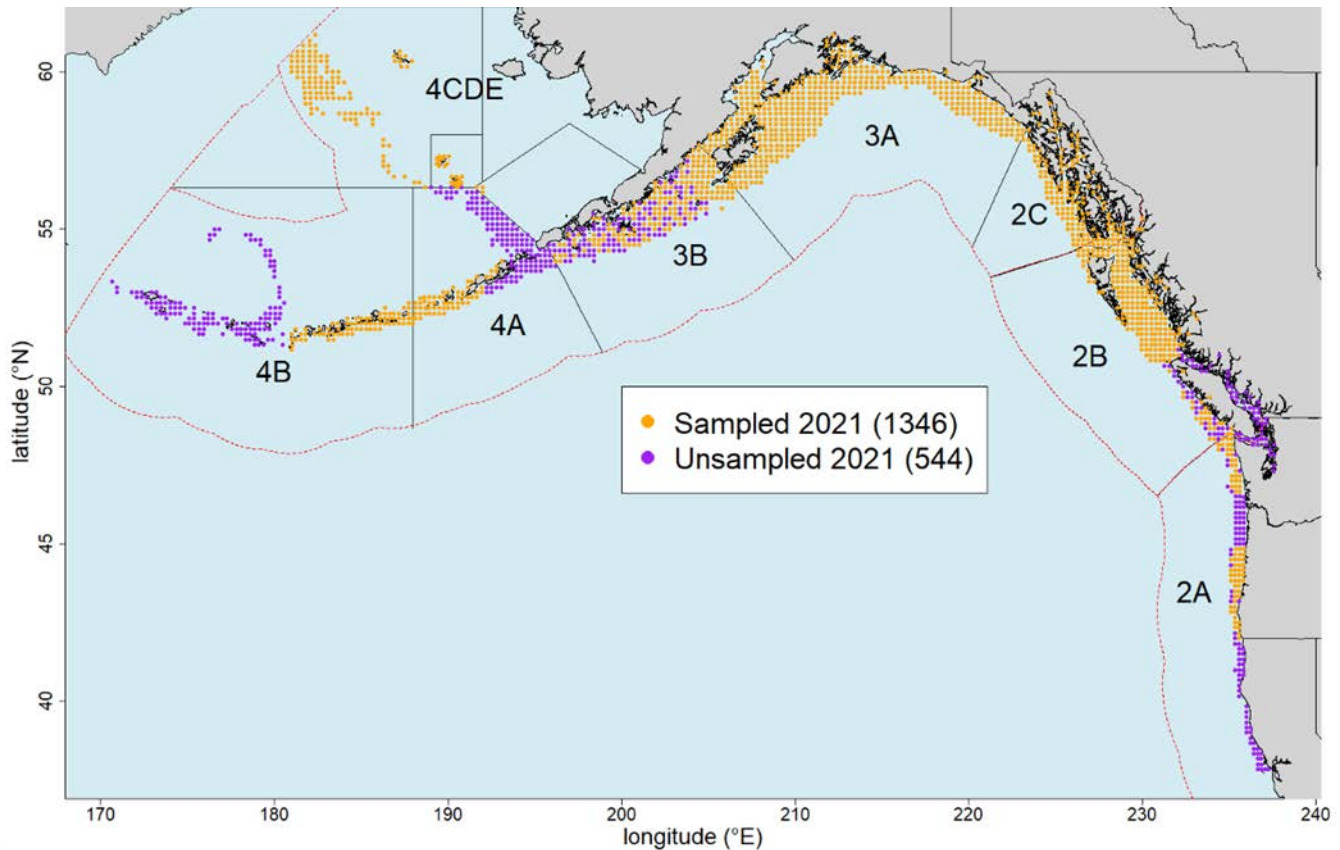


Figure 2. Optimised ‘*minimum 2021 FISS design*’ (orange circles) based on randomised sampling in 2B-3B, and a subarea design elsewhere. Purple circles are not planned for sampling in 2021.

4 REVIEW OF THE DRAFT AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS09)

9. The Report of the 9th Session of the IPHC (IPHC-2020-SS09-R) was **ADOPTED** via correspondence on 09 December 2020, including the consolidated set of recommendations and requests arising from SS09, provided at [Appendix IV](#).

APPENDIX I
AGENDA FOR THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS09)

Date: 8 December 2020

Location and Venue: Electronic: Adobe Connect

Time: 12:00-14:00 (PST)

Chairperson: Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)

Vice-Chairperson: Mr Chris Oliver (United States of America)

1. **OPENING OF THE SESSION** (*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)
2. **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION**
(*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)
3. **IPHC FISHERY-INDEPENDENT SETLINE SURVEY (FISS)**
 - 3.1 **For Information:** Recap of the rationalisation of the FISS following the 2014-19 expansion series (*R. Webster*)
 - 3.2 **For Information:** Implications of a reduced FISS in 2021 (*R. Webster*)
 - 3.3 **For Decision:** IPHC 2021 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) (*D. Wilson, R. Webster, L. Erikson, I. Stewart*)
4. **OTHER BUSINESS** (*Chairperson: P. Ryall*)

APPENDIX II
LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS09)

Document	Title	Availability
IPHC-2020-SS09-01	Agenda for the 9 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS09)	✓ 25 Nov 2020 ✓ 1 Dec 2020
IPHC-2020-SS09-02	List of Documents for the 9 th Special Session of the IPHC (SS09)	✓ 25 Nov 2020 ✓ 1 Dec 2020
IPHC-2020-SS09-03	For Information: Recap of the rationalisation of the FISS following the 2014-19 expansion series (R. Webster)	✓ 1 Dec 2020
IPHC-2020-SS09-04	For Information: Implications of a reduced FISS in 2021 (R. Webster)	✓ 1 Dec 2020
IPHC-2020-SS09-05	For Decision: IPHC 2021 Fishery-Independent Setline Survey (FISS) (D. Wilson, R. Webster, L. Erikson, I. Stewart)	✓ 2 Dec 2020

APPENDIX III
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 9TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS09)

Commission Officers

Chairperson	Vice-Chairperson
Mr Paul Ryall (Canada)	Mr Chris Oliver (United States of America)

Commissioners

Canada	United States of America
Mr Paul Ryall	Mr Chris Oliver
Mr Neil Davis	Mr Robert Alverson
Mr Peter DeGreef	Mr Richard Yamada

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APPENDIX IV
**CONSOLIDATED SET OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUESTS FROM THE 9TH SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE IPHC (SS09) (8 DECEMBER 2020)**

RECOMMENDATIONS

IPHC-2020-ID016 ([para. 8](#)) The Commission **RECOMMENDED** that the IPHC Secretariat proceed with an ‘*optimised*’ version of the ‘*minimum 2021 FISS design*’, involving adding an additional ~398 stations within the areas covered by the ‘*minimum 2021 FISS design*’ and where feasible, adding additional skates on each station ([Fig. 2](#)). The Commission reserved the right to make ad-hoc adjustments to the 2021 FISS at the 97th Session of the IPHC Annual Meeting (AM097), based on updated information to be provided by the IPHC Secretariat on IPHC Regulatory Areas 4B and 2A.